

## Fall 2022 Council of Delegates report to Classis

### Council of Delegates

The Council of Delegates (COD) exists to govern entities and activities of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA), functioning as the intermediary between Synod and the denomination, carrying out decisions of Synod, and at times acting in lieu of Synod. The COD consists of 56 members, with senior staff in *ex officio* positions. All 18 Canadian members of the Council of Delegates (12 of whom represent the 12 classes in Canada and 6 at-large members) form the Canada Corporation Board, whose purpose is to be a strong voice for Canadian CRC interests on the COD, and to serve our Canadian CRCs with contextualized ministries.

The Council of Delegates was able to meet in person May 5 and 6, 2022. Some highlights of our meeting:

- Honoured Colin Watson (Executive Director) and John Bolt (Chief Financial Officer) as they retired from many years of service.
- Worked on details of establishing the Office of General Secretary (apart from either the Canadian or US corporations of the denomination).
- Worked on details of Zachary King’s appointment of General Secretary, pending Synod 2022’s approval.
- Appointed a new chair for the Chief Administrative Officer search committee as the committee starts its search over.
- Approved allocations of ministry shares for 2022-23. Reduced ministry share income has resulted in a hiring freeze and potential layoffs.
- Adopted several policies, heard reports from various committees and senior staff members, and appointed members to various boards.
- Heard a presentation by Dr. Neil Carlson regarding declining membership in CR congregations.

### Synod 2022

Since our May COD meeting, Synod 2022 has come and gone. All Stated Clerks received a “Summary of Synod 2022 Decisions for Classes.” Please study this [summary](#) if you have not done so already—there is some homework there for our classes.

The majority report of the Advisory Committee on the Human Sexuality Report was adopted by Synod. Pages 5 and 6 of the “Summary of Synod 2022 Decisions for Classes” highlight key aspects of this decision. The full discussion at Synod can be found on pages 904-924 of the newly published [Acts of Synod 2022](#).

Synod 2022 approved the “Structure and Leadership Taskforce” report from the COD, which adjusts the partnership between the US and Canadian sides of the denomination, and establishes structures that better comply with each country’s regulatory bodies. Synod approved the appointment of Zachary King, former head of Resonate Global Mission, for the new position of General Secretary. The appointment of a Chief Administrative Officer has not yet been made, but interviews are taking place in early October with the COD given permission to appoint this person now rather than wait for Synod 2023.

## Canada Corp Board

The Canada Corp Board has expended a lot of energy fulfilling the recommendations of the Structure and Leadership Taskforce report and at times tweaking it to better position the Canadian side of the denomination to be full partners with our US brothers and sisters. Part of this has been the establishment of the Canadian Office of the CRCNA; our senior staff along with Chris Bosch of Chisel Consulting have come up with a robust plan for a Canadian Office that will better contextualize ministries in Canada and serve our Canadian congregations. As a registered Canadian charity, we also are being diligent in following CRA regulations.

The most exciting development since our Canadian classes last met is the appointment of Rev. Al Postma as our new Transitional Executive Director. Al comes to us from Pastor Church Resources as the Classis Renewal Leader for both Canada and the US. He began his new position in early July and has been well received by all. His focus will be building strong relationships with Canadian church leaders, classes, Board members, and our Canadian staff. He will be helping to implement the Canadian restructuring plans, will respond to the decisions of Synod 2022, and will continue to cultivate healthy bi-national relationships.

The Canada Corp Board meets four times per year, hears reports from senior staff from Burlington, examines joint ministry agreements between Canadian and US staff, and works with the Canadian Ministries Team, our Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee, and our new National Anti-Racism and Intercultural Conciliation Advisory Committee. We also hear from Terry Veldboom, our Chief Administrator Officer Canada. Terry reported in July that current revenue numbers from ministry shares, church offerings, and individual giving continue to be stable, and that Canadian ministry share pledges continue to be on par with previous years. He asked us as Board members to convey our gratitude to you, our local churches, for this faithful support.

One new development for the Canada Corp Board is implementing Canada Wide Conversations on matters that concern our Canadian churches. The January 29, 2022 Canadian Catalytic Conversation was organized by various CRC pastors and other leaders and served as a worthwhile endeavour, now being picked up by the Canada Corp board and our planning team. The first Canada Wide Conversation will take place (via Zoom) on September 24 – each classis has been asked to “send” four representatives to this gathering. The agenda will have three main areas of interest: 1) An update on the establishment of the Canadian Office of the CRCNA and other matters relating to the implementation of the SALT report, 2) A time of discussion and listening to concerns regarding the decisions of Synod 2022 and the HSR report, and 3) A conversation about how we are better off as part of the CRCNA, specifically the Canadian CRC. Another Canada Wide Conversation to follow up will be held on January 28, 2023.

This is a significant season in our denomination with recent synodical decisions, restructuring, new senior appointments, and coming out of a pandemic and all that has entailed. Please pray for the leadership of the denomination, for the Council of Delegates, and for Biblically grounded governance and wisdom so that this manifestation of Christ’s Church called the CRCNA can flourish, with God’s blessing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy de Jong, Council of Delegates, CRCNA